

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/707,923

Applicant(s)

BENTLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 8, 10-13, 16-18, 21-24, and 29-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/13/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Zell (Applicant's representative), registration #37,481 on 10/13/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A display apparatus for displaying a sequential presentation of words from a section of text, comprising:

a display device; and

a display controller for controlling an image displayed by the display device;

wherein the display controller controls the display device to generate a display image comprising:

a first display region in which words from the section of text are presented sequentially one after another in time; and

a second display region of which at least a portion is overlapped by the first display region, and in which there is presented a thumbnail view of the section of the text from which the words in the first display region are sequentially presented; and

wherein the display controller in generating the display image controls movement of the thumbnail view relative to the first display region in the display image, as the words from the section of text are sequentially presented in the first display region, to indicate at least an approximate location within the thumbnail view of the word currently

presented in the first display region by where that portion of the first display region overlaps the thumbnail view.

2. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display controller sequentially presents words from the section of text, in turn, in the first display region, at a controlled presentation rate.

3. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the display controller generates the display image with the first display region maintained at a fixed position within the display image.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display controller generates the thumbnail view to be larger than the first display region, the thumbnail view being located in a first display pane of the display image, and wherein the first display region is located in a second display pane of the display image in front of the first display pane, the second display pane overlapping the first display pane.

9. (Canceled)

10. (**Currently Amended**) A display apparatus for displaying a sequence of words from a section of text, comprising:

a display device; and

a display controller for controlling an image displayed by the display device;

wherein the display controller controls the display device to generate a display image comprising:

a first display region in which words in the sequence of words are presented one after another in time; and

a second display region of which a portion is overlapped by the first display region, and in which there is presented a thumbnail view of the section of the text from

which the words in the first display region are sequentially presented;

wherein the display controller ~~controls~~moves the thumbnail view's position within the display image relative to the first display region as the words from the section of text are sequentially presented in the first display region, such that the relative position of the thumbnail view is indicative of the location in the section of text of the word currently displayed in the first display region by where that portion of the first display region overlaps the thumbnail view.

11. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the display controller maintains the first display region at a fixed position within the display image.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a display apparatus to generate a display image for displaying a sequential presentation of words from a section of text in a display of the display apparatus, comprising:

generating a first display region in the display image in which words from the section of text are presented sequentially one after another in time;

generating a second display region in the display image of which at least a portion is overlapped by the first display region, and in which there is presented a thumbnail view of the section of text from which the words in the first display region are sequentially presented; and

moving in the display image the thumbnail view relative to the first display region in the display image, as the words from the section of text are sequentially presented in the first display region, to indicate at least an approximate location within the thumbnail view of the word currently being displayed in the first display region by where that portion of the first display region overlaps the thumbnail view.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the sequence of words presented one after another in time in the first display region is advanced at a controlled presentation rate.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising generating the thumbnail view to be larger than the first display region, the thumbnail view being located in a first display pane, and the first display region being located in a second display pane in front of the first display pane, the second display pane overlapping the first display pane.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method for operating a display apparatus to generate a display image for displaying a sequence of words from a section of text in a display of the display apparatus, comprising:

generating a first display region in the display image in which words in the sequence of words are presented one after another in time;

generating a second display region of which a portion is overlapped by the first display region, and in which there is presented a thumbnail view of the section of text from which the words in the first display region are sequentially presented; and

~~controlling~~moving the thumbnail view's position within the display image relative to the first display region as the words from the section of text are sequentially presented in the first display region, such that the relative position of the thumbnail view is indicative of the location in the section of text of the word currently displayed in the first display region by where that portion of the first display region overlaps the thumbnail view.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein said controlling maintains the first display region within the display image at a fixed position.

19. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display controller generates marks in the thumbnail view that approximate word patterns in the section of the text.

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22. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display controller generates a shadow on the thumbnail view to indicate a number of pages remain in a document after the page presented in the thumbnail view.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising generating marks in the thumbnail view that approximate word patterns in the section of the text.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising generating a shadow on the thumbnail view to indicate a number of pages remain in a document after the page presented in the thumbnail view.

25-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first display pane is centered in the display image.

30. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the first display pane is stationary in the display image.

31. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 30, wherein a start word from the section of text is selected by moving the first pane relative to the second pane.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the first display pane is centered in the display image.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the first display pane is stationary in the display image.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein a start word from the section of text is selected by moving the first pane relative to the second pane.

35. (Previously Presented) The display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a start position in the sequence of words is selected by moving the thumbnail view relative to the first display region.

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36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein a start position in the sequence of words is selected by moving the thumbnail view relative to the first display region.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein words from the section of text are sequentially presented, in turn, in the first display region, at a controlled presentation rate.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said moving maintains the first display region within the display image at a fixed position.

William S. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In interpreting the claims in light of the specification and applicant's arguments, the Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art of record includes Lawton et al., "Streaming Thumbnails: Combining Low Resolution Navigation and RSVP Displays", published 06/04/2000 by CHI 2000 (hereinafter Lawton), Mclan et al. (Mclan), US Patent No. 6,130,968.

Lawton discloses streaming thumbnails which combine RSVP displays and low-resolution thumbnails to enable reading complex documents, streaming thumbnails improve browsing because detailed textual information can be accessed from a thumbnail without viewing a document at full resolution (Lawton, Abstract). Lawton also discloses each word in the thumbnail is displayed sequentially in the RSVP display, and word position is shown in the word stream overlay (Figures 1a & 1b). In addition, Lawton discloses a word stream overlay showing the words streamed relative to the thumbnail (Figure 2 and pages 159-160).

Mclan discloses a method comprising a rapid and sequential moving of the words of text through a window on a screen of a computer monitor, and words are

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allowed to pass through or displayed in the display window, one word at a time and at a rate in which the time for display which is based on the number of characters in a word is related to and a function of the total amount of time required for all of the words in a segment of the text to be displayed (Abstract).

Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record does not expressly disclose alone or in combination the display controller controls movement of the thumbnail view relative to the first display region in the display image, as the words from the section of text are sequentially presented in the first displayed region, to indicate at least an approximate location within the thumbnail view of the word currently presented in the first display region by where that portion of the first display region overlaps the thumbnail view.

Examiner finds the specification on page 3, lines 3-9 to be persuasive since the applicant described the thumbnail view is presented as a background to the RSVP region (read as "first display region" in claim 1), and moves behind or "under" the RSVP region, and since the RSVP region should remain stationary, the thumbnail view moves behind the RSVP region as text is sequentially displayed in the RSVP region. In addition, examiner finds applicant's arguments "Lawton teaches that the RSVP display window is positioned "so as not to obscure the word stream overlay and to limit eye movement" (emphasis added, see Lawton page 160, col. 1, lines 3-5) (on page 9 of the remarks filed on 07/28/2006) to be persuasive as well.

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2. Dependent claims 2-3, 8 and 29-31 further limit independent claim 1. Claims 10-13, 16-18, 21-24 and 32-38 are consider allowable for the same reasons set forth for claims 1-3, 8 and 29-31.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Conclusion

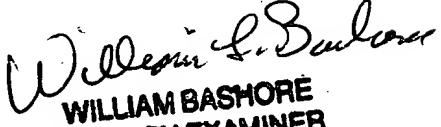
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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